



By the King.

¶ A Proclamation to restraine the excessiue
Carriages in Wagons, and foure wheeled Carts, to
the destruction of High-ways.



Here as Wee haue euer had speciall care that the Common High-Wayes and Bridges, leading from place to place within this Realme, might be kept in due repaire for the ease and good of Our louing Subiects; And obseruing of late (notwithstanding the good prouision of Our Lawes in that behalfe made, and the conformitie and forwardnesse of Our Subiects in so publique and necessary a worke,) That Our High-Wayes & Bridges are at this present growne into great decay, and very dangerous for passage: Wee haue vpon due examination found, That the said decayes are occasioned by the Common Carriers of this Realme, who for their singular, and private profite, doe now vsually trauell with Carts and wagons with foure wheelles, drawne with Eight, Nine, or Tenne horses, or more, and doe commonly therein carry, sixtie, and seuentie hundred weight, at one Burden at one time, which Burden and weight is so great, and excessiue, as that the very Foundations of Bridges are in many places thereby shaken, and the High-Wayes and causeys furrowed and ploughed by by the wheelles of the said Carts and wagons, so overladen, and made so deepe, and full of dangerous slowes, and holes as neither can Passengers trauell thereby in safety, nor the Inhabitants or persons by Law bound to repaire them, be able to vndergoe so great a charge. Where, heretofore all common Carriers vsually went with Carts of two wheelles onely, wherewith they could not well carry aboue twentie hundred weight at once, or thereabouts, which the Bridges, causeys, and ordinary high wayes did, and might well beare, without any great damage to the same.

Wee therefore intending the reformation of the premises (and hauing herein taken the aduise of Our Judges, by whom wee haue bene resolved, that by the Law of this Our Realme, the said excessiue and extraordinary kinde of Carriages, wherby Our high wayes are thus destroyed, are Common Nusances and Annoyances against the weale publique, and an offence against Our Crowne) Doe hereby straightly charge, require and command, That no common-Carrier, nor other person or persons whatsoeuer, shall hereafter be, goe or trauell with any Cart or wagon, made with foure wheelles, to be drawne with aboue five horses at once, alongest their Journey, which will carry in the winter-time as great a weight, and in the Sommer a farre greater Burthen, then the ancient proportion of Carriage was, that the High-Wayes and Bridges may hereafter receiue the lesse

Damage thereby; vpon paine of incurring our high displeasure, and to receiue con-
digne punishment, as contempters of our Royall will and Commandement, and to bee
further prosecuted and punished for the said Nulances and Annoyances by fine, and such
other wayes, as the Lawes of this our Realme haue provided against Offenders in that
kinde.

To which end wee haue expressely charged, aswell our Judges, as our Attourney ge-
nerall to exact, & require the extremity of our Lawes in that behalfe: And that every
offender contrary to this our Proclamation, shall for his contempt be brought into our
Court of Starre chamber, there to bee fined and proceeded against, according to his de-
merit. Neuerthelesse, our intent, will, and commandement is, and we doe hereby strait-
ly charge, command and prohibit, That no common Carrier whatsoeuer, shall by colour
hereof take occasion to inhance, or raise the prices of Carriage from any part, or place with-
in our said Realme, vnder paine of our displeasure, and vpon complaint thereof to vs,
or our Prīue Councell made, to be further punished, as shall be thought fit.

And lastly, we doe hereby will and require all Maiors, Sherriffes, Bailiffes, Justi-
ces of Peace, and other our Officers, and Ministers in all Counties and priuiledged places
whatsoeuer, within this our Realme, That they and every of them in their seuerall offi-
ces, and places doe from time to time prouide, and see to the due execution of this our plea-
sure, and Royall Commandement, and that they discouer and make knowne all Offen-
ders herein, that they may bee seuerally punished for their contempts; as also that they
neglect not, but continue the repayer and maintenance of High-Wayes, Bridges, and
Causeys within this our Realme, according to the Lawes, Statutes and Ordinances
now in force, and our Commandement heretofore given, as they tender our pleasure, and
will answere the contrary at their vttermoost perill.

Giuen at Our Palace of Westminster the twentieth day of Iuly, in the sixteenth
yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God saue the King

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